

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STRUCTURAL SAFETY
OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, September 28, 2021
11:00 a.m. – 1:28 p.m. EST

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting



Approved for submission

Allison Ellis, Chair

December 16, 2021

Committee Members:

Allison Ellis, PE, **Chair**
James R. (Skip) Gregory, AIA, NCARB, Vice Chair
Nathan C. Gould, DSc PE, SE
Jerome F. Hajjar, PhD, PE
Gyimah Kasali, PhD, GE
Steven R Winkel, FAIA, PE, CASp

VA Staff:

Juan Archilla, PE, CFM OFP FSS, SPMO, ADFO
Jelessa Burney, ACOMO Program Specialist
Ross A. Davidson, DBIA, AIA, FHFI, CFM OFP AED
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Asok Ghosh, PhD, PE, CFM CSS
Taeyong Kim, PE, PMG, CFM, SPMO
David Klein, PE, VHA OSHM
Peter Larrimer, PE, VHA OSHM
Fred Lau, PE, CFM OFP FSS
Jeffrey Moragne, ACOMO Director
Donald L. Myers, AIA, CFM OFP FSS Director, DFO
Michael Sheehy, EIT, PMG, CFM, SPMO
Bryan Unger, PE, CFM OFP FSS
Jacob Yoder, PE, CHFM, VHA OCAM, SPMO

Guests:

Matthew Pezella, ASTM International
Craig Updyke, ASTM International

MEETING AGENDA

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|--|---|
| 1. Greetings, introductions, protocols, and comments by Chair Allison Ellis | 3 |
| 2. Secretary's Advisory Committee Message | 3 |
| 3. Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) 101 – Mr. Jeffrey Moragne | 3 |
| 4. Ethics Training for Special Government Employees – Juan Archilla | 3 |
| 5. Partial response to 2020 Committee recommendations | 3 |
| a. Response 1: Update on survey on fire protection of steel columns in interstitial space of VA Hospital Building System – David Klein | |
| 6. New Business Items | 3 |
| a. Reintroduce facility resiliency due to climate change effects (e.g., high winds, flooding) on structures | |
| b. Tornado resistant design | |
| 7. ADJOURN | 4 |

1. Introductions

Call to Order, Welcome/Opening Remarks, Introduction of Members

- a. Committee Chair, Alison Ellis officially opens the 2021 meeting of the Advisory Committee on Structural Safety of Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities
- b. Roll Call conducted by Juan Archilla
- c. Overview of Meeting Protocols
- d. Overview of Meeting Agenda – this fiscal year 2021 meeting is condensed due to the recent appointment of members and inability to arrange a full day meeting before the end of the fiscal year. The abbreviated meeting thus focuses on introductions of new Committee members and completing mandatory Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and Office of Government Ethics (OGE) training.

2. Secretary's Advisory Committee Message

3. FACA 101 Training – Mr. Jeffrey Moragne

4. Ethics Training for Special Government Employees online course was completed by the Committee members as a group and facilitated by Juan Archilla

5. Partial response to 2020 Committee recommendations

- a. Response 1: Update on survey on fire protection of steel columns in interstitial space of VA Hospital Building System – David Klein
- b. Response: Peter Larimer researched the results of the study and pared down the # of buildings
 - i. Peter Larrimer: The survey identified 64 buildings that may be susceptible. Of the 64 buildings, 59 buildings were identified as having protected steel columns.
 - ii. However, additional review of the survey revealed that most of the facilities identified with unprotected steel columns were incorrectly reported as they were not built to the VAHBS design.
 - iii. Currently, the list is down to 2 VAHBS buildings with unprotected steel and the proper resolution will be determined for these buildings.
 - iv. Question from Chair Ellis – do any facilities that misunderstood the VAHBS construction type pose any risk to their unprotected steel? Peter Larrimer – buildings that did not use the VAHBS that were incorrectly reported as such were mostly 1 story and/or Type 2 nonrated buildings that would be exempt from requiring the structural steel to be fire proofed. No risks were observed among these buildings.

6. New Business Items – Juan Archilla

- a. Reintroduce facility resiliency due to climate change effects (e.g., high winds, flooding).
 - i. Emphasized that climate change concerns are a renewed priority for VA and will be discussed at the next full Committee meeting.
- b. Tornado resistant design
 - i. Juan Archilla presents slides on Tornado Design
 - ii. USACE engineer working on the St Louis John Cochran (JC) Major Bed Tower project recommended tornado design provisions be added due to the high tornado risk in the region. Current building standards do not address tornado design requirements for buildings (exception is tornado shelters).
 - iii. ASCE 7-22 will add tornado design loads and associated tools (e.g., tornado hazard maps, etc.). Nathan Gould reviewed an early draft and mentioned that it will be applicable to Risk Category

III and IV buildings. FEMA Tornado Recovery Advisory RA-6 (Aug 2011) classifies enhancement levels based on intensity of tornado. This has been used on a previous project managed by USACE to design for tornado loads.

- iv. Short Term issues – St. Louis JC bed tower project is starting early design in the next year. Should special Tornado criteria be added to design pending ASCE 7-22 publication and adoption?
 - 1) Nathan Gould – Raises the possibility of adding design specific requirements to the scope of work based on specific criteria (i.e., glazing on windows, and designate specific wind speed to protect against). Issue is that standards with tornado resistance regulations (ASCE 7-22 and IBC 2024) won't be published until well after design is complete. Existing regulations (ICC 500 and FEMA 361) are not intended to apply to large new structures as they are meant for tornado shelter design.
 - 2) Explored possibility of forming a subcommittee to craft a recommendation for the next advisory meeting. Nathan Gould, Skip Gregory, and Steve Winkel volunteered to participate in the subcommittee.
- v. Long Term – Adopt ASCE 7-22 before IBC? VA specific modifications necessary? Subcommittee would consider this as well prior to the next meeting.

7. Chair adjourns meeting.